

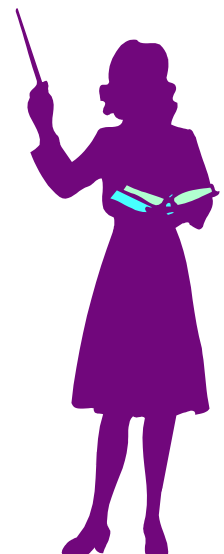


# October is Idaho Disability History Month

Legislation passed in 2007 established October as Disability History Month in Idaho. The legislation encourages schools to incorporate disability history and awareness activities into their curriculums during the month of October. We encourage educators to include disability awareness activities throughout the year.



Resources for educators about  
**Disability History**



# **Disability History:**

## **An Important Part of Our Heritage**

*Adapted article from the National Consortium on Leadership and Disability for Youth  
www.nclld-youth.info*

On July 26, 2006, Americans celebrated the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Since the ADA was signed by President George H. W. Bush in 1990, many changes have been made, creating a more accessible environment for America's approximately 51.2 million people with disabilities (U.S. Census, 2006).

Most Americans, however, are unfamiliar with the events which led to the signing of the ADA. Buoyed by the civil rights and antiwar movements of the 1960s, and the feminist movement of the 1970s, disability leaders held sit-ins in federal buildings, blocked inaccessible buses from moving, drafted legislation, and protested in the streets. Like the broader civil rights movements which preceded it, the disability civil rights movement had its own heroes and champions, for example, Ed Roberts, Gini Laurie (grandmother of the independent living movement), and Justin Dart (father of the Americans with Disabilities Act) to name just a few.

Teaching children and youth through national identification of specific months to honor the history and contributions of women and those of African American, Hispanic American, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Asian/Pacific American backgrounds has been recognized as an important part of our nation's heritage. Disability history, however, has been largely ignored in curricula at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. This is particularly noteworthy when one considers the fact that people with disabilities represent the one population subgroup that anyone can join at any time.

The tide is beginning to turn, however, due in large part to grassroots efforts of young disability leaders. In Idaho, during the 2006 Legislative session, a concurrent resolution was passed establishing October as Disability History Month. Schools are encouraged to include disability history and awareness activities in their social studies and history curriculums.

Learning about the history, values, and beliefs of one's society has been recognized as one of 12 key components to effective youth leadership development (Woyach and Cox (1997)). If you are an educator or other youth worker interested in increasing awareness and understanding of the history and contributions made by people with disabilities there are a number of resources available to assist you including the following:

### **ADL Curriculum Connections: Anti-Bias Lesson Plan and Resources for K–12 Educators**

[http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum\\_connections/fall\\_2005/](http://www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/fall_2005/)

This site provides suggestions for the curriculum that could be used for teaching about disability history.

### **Center on Human Policies: Disability Studies for Teachers**

<http://www.disabilitystudiesforteachers.org>

This site was created for teachers to use as a reference tool when they are teaching grades 6-12 about disability history. It contains lesson plans, activities, and materials that the teacher may use when teaching Disability History.

### **Disability History Museum**

<http://www.disabilitymuseum.org/>

This site is intended to promote understanding about the historical experience of people with disabilities by recovering, chronicling, and interpreting their stories. Contents include a library in two parts: a document collection and a visual still collection.

### **Disability Social History Project**

<http://www.disabilityhistory.org/index.html>

The Disability History Project is a community history project which provides information about heroes in the disability movement, a disability history timeline, and related information.

### **EDGE - Education for Disability & Gender Equity**

<http://www.disabilityhistory.org/dwa/edge/curriculum/>

A high school curriculum incorporating disability and gender issues into humanities and science.

### **Family Village:**

<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/general/history.html>

This resource connects you to a number of resources on disability history.

### **Florida Youth Council:**

<http://www.ncld-youth.info/fyc.htm>

This site, which details the grassroots efforts to celebrate Disability History and Awareness Weeks in Florida, also provides general information about disability history.

### **Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities:**

<http://www.mncdd.org/parallels/index.html>

This site provides a wealth of information on disability history.

**Mountain State Centers for Independent Living:**

<http://www.mtstcil.org/advocacy/2006youth-sb472.html>

A site dedicated to the group of youth who brought the "Establishing Disability History" Law to West Virginia.

**National Public Radio's: Beyond Affliction the Disability History Project**

[http://www.npr.org/programs/disability/ba\\_shows.dir/index\\_sh.html](http://www.npr.org/programs/disability/ba_shows.dir/index_sh.html)

This project offers an in depth look into disability history and the civil rights movement for individuals with disabilities.

**Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER Center):**

<http://www.pacer.org/C3/curriculum/Session2/index.htm>

This page provides both resources and curriculums for teaching Disability History to all.

**Resource Center for Independent Living:**

<http://www.rcil.com/DisabilityFAQ/DisabilityRightsMovement.html>

This site provides a timeline of the disability civil rights movement.

**Santa Monica College:**

<http://www.smc.edu/disabledstudent/Guide/34philos.htm>

This web page offers insight into the philosophy behind disability rights.

**Smithsonian Museum of American History:**

<http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/disabilityrights/welcome.html>

This site offers a virtual tour of the Disability Rights Movement Exhibit at the Smithsonian American History Museum.

**Tolerance.Org:**

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?p=0&ar=631>

This site contains middle school level activities that can be done in the classroom relating to disability history.

**Disability is Natural**

<http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/>

This site has a lot of information, articles and products focused on disability awareness.

**Idaho Legislation**

<http://www3.state.id.us/oasis/HCR022.html>

This is the Idaho concurrent resolution that was passed in 2007 referenced in the body of the text of this article.

## **Idaho Resources/Contacts:**

### **Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC)**

<http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>

### **Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities**

<http://www.icdd.idaho.gov>

### **Center on Disability and Human Development, University of Idaho**

<http://www.idahocdhd.org/>

### **ADA Task Force**

<http://www.adataskforce.org>

### **Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network**

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Phone: 208-334-2178 or 1-800-544-2433

<http://www.icdd.idaho.gov>